

The Killing of Dhenukasura

From Krsna Book chapter 15

* Words and Music by Yamini Dasi

Song: Blue sky, white clouds
Krsna and Balarama
Following the cows
Over on Govardhana
Where the cows stray
The cowherd boys all play
With Krsna and Balarama
All through the day.

Narrator: This story took place when Sri Krsna, along with His elder Brother, Balarama passed the childhood age known as kaumara (birth to age five) and stepped into the age of pauganda, from the sixth year up to the tenth. At that time, all the cowherd men conferred and agreed to give those boys who had passed their fifth year charge of the cows in the pasturing ground. Given charge of the cows, Krsna and Balarama traversed Vrndavan, purifying the land with Their footprints.

Accompanied by the cowherd boys and Balarama, Krsna brought forward the cows and played on His flute through the forest of Vrndavan, which was full of flowers, fruits, vegetables and pasturing grass. The Vrndavan forest was as sanctified as the clear mind of a devotee. There were chirping birds, buzzing bees and clear water lakes that could relieve one of all fatigues. Sweet flavored breezes blew always, refreshing the mind and body. Krsna and Balarama entered the forest with Their friends and seeing the favorable situation, enjoyed the atmosphere to its fullest extent. Krsna saw all the trees, overloaded with fruits and fresh twigs, coming down to touch the ground as if welcoming Him by touching His lotus feet. He was very pleased by the behavior of the trees, fruits and flowers and He began to smile, realizing their desires.

Song: Hey hey Hare Krsna hey
Off to the Talavana forest today
Where clear waters are flowing
Fruits and flowers growing

Where demons are hiding
We'll soon be abiding
Hey hey Hare Krsna hey
Off to the Talavana forest today
Hey hey Hare Krsna hey
Off to the Talavana forest today
Off to the Talavana forest today
Off to the Talavana forest today

Krsna: My dear Balarama, You are superior to all of us, and Your lotus feet are worshiped by the demigods. Just see how these trees, full with fruits, have bent down to worship Your lotus feet. Actually, the trees born in Vrndavan are not ordinary living entities. It appears that they are trying to get out of the darkness of being obliged to accept the form of trees. Having held the impersonal point of view in their past lives, they are now put into this stationary condition of life. Now they have the opportunity of seeing You in Vrndavan and they are praying for further advancement in spiritual life through Your personal association.

I think that the drones buzzing around You must have been great sages and Your devotees in their past lives. They cannot leave Your company because no one be a better more affectionate master than You.

You are the original Personality of Godhead and the drones are just trying to spread your glories by chanting them at every moment. Just see how the peacocks are dancing in great ecstasy before You! The deer, whose behavior is just like the gopis, are welcoming You with the same affection. And the cuckoos who residing in this forest are receiving You with great joy because they feel that it is very auspicious to have You in their home. Even though they are trees and animals, these residents of V are glorifying You. They are prepared to welcome You to their best capacity as is the practice of great souls in receiving another great soul at home. As for the land, is so pious and fortunate that the footprints of Your lotus feet are marking its body.

It is quite natural for these Vrndavan inhabitants to thus receive a great personality like You. The herbs, creepers and plants are also fortunate to touch Your lotus

feet. And by Your touching the twigs with Your hands, they are also made glorious. As for the hills and rivers, they too have become glorious because You are glancing at them. Above all, the damsels of Vraja, the gopis, attracted by Your beauty, are the most glorious because You embrace them with Your strong arms.

(Krsna and Balarama and the cowherd boys play in the forest and laugh. They imitate the quacking sound of the swans in the lake, the buzzing sound of the bees, the striding movement and sound of the peacocks)

Subala: Krsna, the cows are wandering away; call them back!

Krsna: (calls the cows, sound effects of mooing)

Psangi, Manikalscani, Pranata, Srngi, Pingeksana, Mrdangi-mukhi, Dhumala, Samala, Hamsi, Vamsi-priya!

(Krsna and Balarama and the cowherd boys imitate the sound and motion of various birds, then they imitate lions and tigers and the weaker animals fleeing from them. They laugh and run about. Tiring, they sit in the shade.)

Balarama: Ohhh, I am so tired now! Let's rest for a while!

Krsna: Subal, you sit here so that Balarama can rest His head on your lap. I will massage Balarama's legs!

Stokakrsna: I know a new little dance, Balarama! Watch me dance!

(Everyone claps and laughs as Stokakrsna dances. Some boys begin wrestling. The others shout encouragement. Krsna tires and lies his head in the lap of a cowherd boy, too. Boys fan Krsna and Balarama. One boy massages Krsna's legs. Some boys sing softly or play a flute.)

Song: Dear Balarama, Your arms are strong

Dear Krsna, You can kill the demons

Nearby is the Talavana forest, full of palm trees filled with fruits

No one can get them because there's a demon there - Dhenukasura!

Dear Krsna and Balarama, only You can kill such demons

All the birds and animals, have left that forest filled with fear.

Please let us go there, we like the aroma.

Don't you smell it from here?

Don't you smell it from here?

Subala: Dear Balarama, You are very powerful; Your arms are very strong!
Dear Krsna You are
very expert in killing all kinds of disturbing demons! Will You kindly note that
just near this place
there is a big forest of the name Talavana. This forest is full of palm trees and
all the trees are
filled with fruit. Some are falling down and some of them are very ripe even in
the trees. It is a
very nice place but because of a great demon Dhenukasura it is very difficult
to go there. No one
can approach the trees to collect the fruit.

Stokakrsna: Dear Krsna and Balarama this demon is present in the form of an
ass and he is surrounded by demon friends who assume the same shape. All
of them are very strong so it is very difficult to get the fruit.

Sridama: Dear Brothers, You are the only persons who can kill such demons.
Other than You, no one can go there for fear of being killed! Not even animals
go there and no birds are sleeping there; they have all left. One can only
appreciate the sweet aroma that is coming from that place. It appears that up
until now, no one has tasted the sweet fruits there, either on the tree or on the
ground.

Stokakrsna: Dear Krsna to tell You frankly we are very attracted by this sweet
aroma.

Subala: Dear Balarama, let us all go there and enjoy these fruits. The aroma
of the fruits is now spread everywhere. Don't You smell it from here?

Boys: Jaya! Jaya! Let's go! Come on! We are so hungry! Balarama will protect
us from the demons!

Song: (Everyone walks and sings. Demons peek out.)

Hey hey Hare Krsna hey
Off to the Talavana forest today
Where clear waters are flowing
Fruits and flowers growing
Where demons are hiding
We'll soon be abiding
Hey hey Hare Krsna hey
Off to the Talavana forest today
Hey hey Hare Krsna hey
Off to the Talavana forest today

Off to the Talavana forest today
Off to the Talavana forest today

Balarama: (arriving) You want some fruit? Just see, there is plenty of fruit! I will shake the trees and bring all the fruit to the ground.
(Sound effect of shaking. The boys scramble after fruits.)

Subala: Oh boy, give it to me!

Sridama: MMMMMMmmmmmm! These are delicious!

Balarama: Where are the demons? We will fight with them!

Stokakrsna: I'm ready!

(sound effects of loud roaring, hoofbeats, rumbling, crashing sounds, heehaws, etc. as many ass-costumed actors enter. Dhenukasura attacks Balarama. Then, Lord Balarama wheels Dhenukasura around and around and tosses him aside. The other demons attack them but Krsna and Balarama easily wheel them about and toss their bodies here and there, breaking the props, making a mess. The demons lay still.)

Dhenukasura: Ohhhhh, (groan) Oooffff!! ARGGHHH!

(Demigods beat drums and shower flowers. Townspeople come to gather baskets of fruit.)

Demigods: (song)

Jaya Jaya All Glories to
The Supreme Personality of Godhead!
Jaya Jaya All Glories to
The Supreme Personality of Godhead!

Cowherd Boys: (song with hand motions and then boys sing the Hare Krsna mahamantra as Krsna and Balarama lead them off stage.)

Today in the forest of Talavana,
Lord Krsna and Balarama
Killed the Dhenukasura
By wheeling him around and around.

Today in the forest of Talavana,
Lord Krsna and Balarama
Killed the Dhenukasura

By wheeling him around and around.

Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare

Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare